

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05126 231723Z

ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8548

INFO AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

UNCLAS GENEVA 5126

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR UN

SUBJ: EXPERTS MEETING ON FEASIBILITY OF USING CHEMICAL CHARAC-
TERISTICS OF HEROIN TO TRACK ITS MOVEMENT IN ILLICIT TRAFFIC

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED JUNE 16 FROM DR. O.
BRAENDEN, DIRECTOR UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY, ANNOUNCING THAT
IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, UN
LAB IS CONVENING SUBJECT MEETING IN HONG KONG FROM 17 TO 21
OCTOBER 1977. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE OF PARTICIPANTS
WILL BE PAID BY UNFDAC. PARTICIPANTS WILL SERVE IN PERSONAL
CAPACITIES AS EXPERTS AND NOT AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

2. LETTER RECOGNIZES "CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANT RESEARCH IN
THIS FIELD" PERFORMED IN US AND WELCOMES PARTICIPATION OF
TWO US EXPERTS AT MEETING, WHICH WILL BE OF INFORMAL NATURE
WITH PROCEEDINGS IN ENGLISH.

3. LETTER FURTHER STATES QUOTE...WE WOULD PARTICULARLY VALUE
THE PARTICIPATION IN THIS MEETING OF AN EXPERT FROM THE
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF D.E.A., SUCH AS THE
DIRECTOR, DR. JOHN W. GUNN, JR., OR THE CHIEF OF THE
FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION, DR. RICHARD S. FRANK OR SUCH
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05126 231723Z

OTHER SCIENTIST AS MAY BE DESIGNATED BY DR. GUNN. WE DO
NOT KNOW THE EXTENT OF NIDA'S INTEREST IN THE QUESTION
OF HEROIN SIGNATURES BUT, IF THIS INSTITUTE SHOULD WISH
TO ATTEND THE MEETING, WE WOULD WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION
OF AN EXPERT CHEMIST, SUCH AS DR. ROBERT E. WILLETTE,
ACTING CHIEF OF THE RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY BRANCH OF NIDA.
WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT DR. EVERETTE L.

MAY (FORMERLY OF NIH AND NOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA) IS ONE OF THE LEADING WORLD AUTHORITIES ON THE CHEMISTRY OF THE PHENANTHRENE ALKALOIDS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES AND WE SINCERELY REGRET THAT WE ARE ABLE TO FUND THE PARTICIPATION OF ONLY TWO SCIENTISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. WE WOULD BE GLAD IF YOU COULD INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHICH TWO EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING, SO THAT THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE AND FURTHER DETAILS FORWARDED TO THE PARTICIPANTS...UNQUOTE.

4. DURING DISCUSSION WITH MISSION OFFICER, DR. BRAENDON EMPHASIZED REPECT HE HOLDS FOR DEA EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD AND HIS HOPES FOR DEA EXPERT PRATICIPATION.

5. COMMENT: MISSION CONSIDERS MEETING IMPORTANT IN FULFILLING UN LABS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN COORDINATING INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND AFFIRMATIVE AND FORTHCOMING RESPONSE. PLEASE INFORM NAMES OF TWO US EXPERTS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO UN LAB. END COMMENT.

6. TEXT OF LETTER POUCHED IO/HDC.SORENSEN

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